



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

March 15, 2004



Light at the end of the Truck Tunnel: Last Thursday, March 11, 2004, after several days of demolition, a crew finally broke through the thick concrete wall separating the CVC from a new truck tunnel (top left of photo). Later this summer, the truck tunnel will be used by the Sequence 2 contractor to transport materials necessary for the build-out and finishes of the CVC. The tunnel will open for normal truck traffic to the Capitol in the spring of 2006.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 3/15/04 through 3/19/04

East Front Plaza Highlights:

- Crews will continue testing waterproofing applications on the southern half of the roof deck. The last major placement of concrete on the north side of the roof deck will occur later this week.
- Concrete placements will continue on the Upper and Lower levels inside the southwest quadrant.
- Crews continue to build mechanical spaces, erect formwork, excavate and install utilities throughout the site.

East Front Extension (Inside the Capitol)

- Crews will continue to erect structural steel inside the East Front. As steel is erected, demolition crews will remove adjacent portions of the floor slabs and interior walls to clear the way for elevator shafts, stairwells and new mechanical systems.
- Crews will continue demolishing some of the large concrete structural columns supporting the East Front. The two large columns below the East Front Steps were removed last week clearing the way for a grand staircase and escalators.

Senate Side: Truck Tunnel Construction

- Demolition broke through the final concrete barrier separating the CVC site and the tunnel (see photo above).
- Crews continue to assemble rebar and formwork for the tunnel walls and roof deck. Concrete pours and waterproofing applications will occur for the next several weeks. More than 55 percent of the concrete for the tunnel has been placed.



Crews have completed demolition of two large concrete columns (top center of photo), which until last week, were helping to support the East Front Center Steps. Heavy steel columns and beams have now taken their place as demolition of other concrete columns and structural elements will continue for several months.

Library of Congress (LOC) Tunnel

- The traffic lanes may shift slightly this week as crews continue to drill piles across First Street SE. The piles are necessary to support the sides of the LOC tunnel walls before excavation occurs.
- Excavation is expected to begin this week in the western half of First Street SE within the tunnel zone.
- Crews will continue assembling the formwork for the floor slab and walls of the tunnel within the CVC site.

Next Week – 3/22/04 - 3/26/04

East Front Plaza Work

- Crews will continue to waterproof the roof slab, lay rebar, and place concrete on the roof deck in the northern half of the site.
- Crews will continue install utilities, build mechanical spaces, erect formwork and place concrete floor slabs for all three below-ground levels of the CVC.

East Front Extension (Inside the Capitol)

- Steel crews will also continue to erect steel within the East Front concrete structure. Demolition of structural elements will continue on all levels within the East Front Extension and in the Carriageway below the East Front Center Steps. Demolition of major structural columns will continue inside the East Front transition zone. Major slab demolition for the two 25-passenger elevators has begun within the north side of the East Front.

Senate Side (Truck Tunnel Zone)

- Crews will continue to erect formwork and place and waterproof concrete in all areas of the truck tunnel construction zone.

Library of Congress (LOC) Tunnel

- Excavation and pile installation will continue in First Street SE and adjacent to the northwest corner of the LOC building.
- Formwork assembly will continue within the CVC site for the tunnel floor slab and walls.

If you have any questions about the Capitol Visitor Center Project, please contact Tom Fontana, CVC project communications officer, at (202) 228-1310, or by e-mail at tfontana@aoc.gov. You can read this document and previous editions on the CVC web site at www.aoc.gov.